

# Stakeholder Interview Notes

## Mobility Area #4

### **Susan Engdall – Principal at Augustus A. Shaw Elementary School**

- Augustus A, Shaw is an elementary school serving students ranging from Pre-kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade with approximately 470 students currently enrolled.
- Nearly 85% of the students are picked up and dropped off by their parents and the remaining 15% of the students take the school bus through the school district. Augustus A. Shaw is a \_\_\_\_\_ type of school so that is why the school does not have any students commuting to and from school on bikes or by walking.
- The school has a total of four different bus routes and does not have any cross guards.
- Since the majority of students are dropped off and picked, the school experiences congestion issues between 8:00-8:45 am and 3:00-3:45 pm at their two drop off and pick locations which are their parking lot at 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Monroe Street, and off of 13<sup>th</sup> Street adjacent to Adams Street.
- Ms. Engdall also noted that the school utilizes the light rail to take field trips and the students often take Adams Street to 12<sup>th</sup> Street to access the 12<sup>th</sup> Street Light Rail Station. She complained that the station can be difficult to access.
- Ms. Engdall believes more destinations and higher density with additional sidewalks and bike lanes are the key ingredients for an easier, safe and more pleasant environment for walking, biking and using transit.
- Ms. Engdall would like to see are wider sidewalks, buffered bike lanes, more lighting as well as additional incentive programs for students take public transit.

### **Sylvia Carrizoza – Principal at Mitchell Elementary School**

- Mitchell Elementary School is Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade serving students from the surrounding neighborhood, specifically the neighborhoods north of McDowell Road. The school has approximately 600 students currently enrolled.
- Roughly 60% of the student are picked up and dropped off by their parents and the remaining 40% either walk or bike to school. There are no busses provided by the school.
- The school has cross guards stationed at Granada Road and 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Palm Lane and 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- The School only has one parking lot which is also the designated pick up and drop off zone so there is major congestions issues along Granada Road and 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue.
- They recommended some traffic calming and possibly stop sign along 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue.
- The intersection at 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Palm Lane is a dangerous location and they have had some near instances with students almost being hit there. Opportunity for a raised intersection.

- The destination that draw the highest number of visitors in the mobility area are the Fry's Mercado, Golden Gate Community Center and the Boys & Girls Club.

**Nate Dettmar – Principal at Alta E. Butler Elementary School**

- Alta E. Butler Elementary School is kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade and serves the surrounding neighborhoods with approximately 700 students currently enrolled.
- Nearly 50% of the students are picked up and dropped off by their parents and the other 50% of the student body walks or bikes to and from school, however, more students walk versus bike to school. There are no busses provided by the school.
- All students need to enter the school on the northside of the campus so there is a high amount of congestions off of Roosevelt Street.
- There are a lot of missing sidewalks in the neighborhoods adjacent to the school which is a major concern for the school, especially along 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- The intersections of 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Roosevelt Street is over congested during pick up and drop off times and require two cross guards at that intersection because motorists don't obey the traffic laws.
- The school has heard about near accidents at 38<sup>th</sup> and Roosevelt Street and 39<sup>th</sup> and Roosevelt Street.
- The School would like the ability to have a larger designated school zone along Roosevelt Street, however they are unable to due to a City ordinance about no temporary sign within 600 feet of a stop sign.
- The school would like to see a partnership with the Police Department or the City to create an educational program about safely walking and biking to and from school.

**Kristen Robertson – Principal at Esperanza Elementary School**

- Esperanza Elementary School is kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade and has a neighboring preschool across the street. There are approximately 500 students currently enrolled and they are pretty much at full capacity.
- The school serves the neighboring communities to the north and south, which pose a significant issue for students because McDowell Road to the north and I-10 to the south are huge barriers for the students to cross.
- Nearly 50-60% of the students are dropped off or picked up by their parents and the remaining students walk or bike to school. However, only about 2-3% of those students bike to school and the rest walk.
- The School has two cross guards stationed at McDowell Road and 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue and one cross guard on 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue between the neighboring preschool and Esperanza Elementary School.
- The school experiences a lot of the parents illegally parking on 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue waiting for the students which causes a lot of congestion along 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

- The school unfortunately had to deal with a student and their parent getting hit by a car near the school at Culver Street and 30<sup>th</sup> lane trying to walk to school. There have also been complaints of near misses along 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue at McDowell Road and other local street intersections along 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue north of McDowell Road. There have also been complaints about near accident on the 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue bridge south of the school.
- There needs to be more traffic calming on local streets adjacent to schools, particularly Palm Lane and other streets near Isaac and Esperanza schools.
- The school would like to see more sidewalks along the local street in the neighborhoods north of the school adjacent to 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue as well as a complete bike lane on 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue.
- The biggest concern the school has is how dangerous it is for the students to cross major streets like McDowell Road.